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ON PAGE ALOS ANGELES TIMES
16 APRIL 1980

CAMPAIGN FEEDING FEAR OF FOREIGNERS

Spy Stories Fill Soviet Press as Olympics Approach

By DAN FISHER
Times Staff Writer

MOSCOW—A West German tourist struck up an acquaintance with Valery, a young Lvov engineer, during a trip to the Soviet Union a while back and, later, the two corresponded.

After a few innocent letters, however, the "tourist" revealed himself to be a member of an anti-Soviet emigre organization and enlisted the young engineer's help in distributing subversive literature. Valery "came to his senses" just in time and turned everything over to the authorities.

A foreign engineer ostensibly here to install Western equipment in a Soviet factory started asking two young local acquaintances about their military service and otherwise "behaving suspiciously." When the foreigner suggested visiting a "high-security defense installation," the two reported him and the man was unmasked as a spy.

Those are only two of the many cloak-and-dagger stories that Soviet citizens have been reading in their official press in recent weeks in what some see as part of an unprecedented official campaign to whip up fear and distrust of foreigners here.

There is no way of knowing whether they are true in whole, in part or at all.

Western governments routinely refuse any comment here on spying charges raised by Soviets, and none of the alleged culprits is sufficiently identified for checking. But the stories continue. For instance:

A translator for "various American delegations and tourist groups" was investigated by the KGB secret police and found to be not only a spy, but a former fascist.

Two American diplomats tried to hide sophisticated electronic espionage equipment near a Moscow area defense installation. The ingenious plot involved camouflaging the equipment as a pine stump.

But, the two were tripped up by their own ignorance of forestry and sharp-eyed Soviet security: pines don't normally grow in an aspen grove.

Official paranoia is not new in the Soviet Union. A steady stream of Soviet propaganda continually warns the populace that the country is surrounded by enemies—ideological and otherwise.

Still, the current campaign is notable if only because of its unusual harshness and breadth.

Some Western diplomats here speculate that the flood of spy stories may be in part a retaliation for the recent expulsion of Soviet diplomats from New Zealand, France, Canada, and other countries on espionage charges and for U.S. revelations about Soviet skullduggery in America.

More likely, others say, it is related to the unprecedented influx of foreigners expected here this summer for the Moscow Olympic Games and official fears of possible ideological "contamination" if Soviet citizens mix too freely with those visitors.

In addition to the spy stories in the official press, Olympic and other Soviet officials have been warning frequently about the need for "ideological vigilance" during the Games.

Airport customs officials have already begun searching visitors much more thoroughly than normal, according to Western embassies here, and are confiscating books, magazines and other items. An American correspondent and his family returning to the Soviet Union from a vacation last weekend were held up for nearly an hour while inspectors searched every piece of luggage and thumbed through all reading material, including his 11-year-old daughter's school books.

Soviet students who are to serve as interpreters during the Games are being screened for political reliability as well as their linguistic talent, and

reportedly only those who are members of the Young Communist League will be allowed to mix with the foreigners.

For Soviet children too young to understand the threat of ideological contamination from contact with foreigners, some Moscow schoolteachers have resorted to more primitive scare tactics. Diplomatic and Soviet sources alike say children have been warned that foreigners will be handing out poisoned candy and chewing gum during the Games. Whether the teachers are acting on instructions from above or personal patriotism is unknown.

The xenophobic Kremlin campaign appears to stand in sharp contrast to Olympic ideals, which hold that the Games should promote international understanding and goodwill.

"Sport brings people closer to each other better," Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev himself proclaimed not long ago. "One would like to wish that the ideals of fraternity, friendship and mutual understanding, by which the Olympic sports movement is guided, will always distinguish the atmosphere by meetings between sportsmen from various countries."

During International Olympic Committee deliberations over awarding the Games to Moscow several years ago, Soviet officials were even suggesting that they would open the country's borders for the occasion, dispensing with the normal requirement for entry visas.

With less than 100 days to go before the scheduled opening of the Games, however, it is clear that such notions—if they were ever seriously entertained—have given way to the leadership's deeply ingrained suspi-

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